

Council Approves Comprehensive Operations Contract for Theater

by Thomas X. Whtie

Following a series of executive worksessions to develop a contract between the City of Greenbelt and Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre (FOGT), council made quick work at its regular meeting on Monday, February 23, approving a comprehensive contract for operation of the theater by FOGT. The 21-page contract sets forth strict requirements for FOGT's management of the theater, as well as oversight of its operator by the office of City Manager Michael McLaughlin and financial responsibilities of both the operator and the city.

The term of the contract is for three years with an annual performance review by the city. The contract also provides that the theater may be used at no

cost at least twice a month by both city and community groups, as well as for the annual Utopia Film Festival.

Following a brief introduction by Mayor Emmett Jordan, a motion was made by Councilmember Edward Putens, seconded by Councilmember Silke Pope, to approve the final contract. Councilmember Leta Mach requested that language in the contract be strengthened to assure that the reopened theater provides first- or second-run films.

McLaughlin noted that such a provision was included in the final draft under Article X, item 10.0, whereby failure to show first- or second-run films would constitute a material breach of the contract and allow the city to take over operation of the theater.

Agreed to by other members of council, the motion to approve the contract with FOGT was passed unanimously.

McLaughlin also provided an update on the progress of theater renovation. He told council that the city is still looking at a mid-March completion. The only issue remaining, he said, was exit doors. With contract approval, the city anticipates that FOGT will be able to provide a soft opening of the theater on the weekend of March 27, with a grand opening occurring in late April.

Reporter's Note: When covering the Greenbelt theater saga and with the end approaching, my movie highlights this week are: "... follow the yellow brick road." And "... we're off to see the wizard!"

In the News this Week



PHOTOS BY HELEN SYDAVAR

Saturday's new snow brings more work.



Long icicles hang from the roof of the Youth Center.



Lost glove pokes a finger in fencing that protects a tree.

New Robot Brings Live Classroom To Students at Home or Hospital

by Alexi Worley

Claire Mudd, a junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), listened intently as her teacher outlined the day's lessons. As the class went on she completed assignments, answered questions and worked alongside her classmates.

Mudd, however, wasn't sitting in her classroom.

As one of 10 students chosen to participate in a Prince George's County pilot program testing out a telepresence robot named VGO, she was attending her classes from the school's ad-

ministrative office.

"It was pretty awesome, it felt like I was in class with my friends," Mudd said. "For students who have to be gone for a long time, I don't think they would feel like they missed as much if they got to use VGO."

Standing roughly 4-feet tall, with a screen for a face and wheels for feet, VGO is a potential solution for absent students, particularly those with long-term illnesses or injuries, to attend their classes remotely, said ERHS Assistant Principal Ayanna Briscoe.

"Last year we had multiple students at home and hospital, and something we struggled with constantly was finding live tutors to teach the higher level classes. We had students dropping out of AP classes because of this," Briscoe said. "So we started to look for a better option."

Being the first school in Maryland to test out VGO, the participating ERHS students spent three days attending their classes via laptop in the school's administrative office, Briscoe said.

The robot came equipped with a video screen that worked both ways, both mouse and keyboard enabled controls and the option to type messages, which VGO would read out loud, instead of speaking through the video, junior Taylor Roar said.

Working with the robot, students saw both the program's selling points and its kinks, said junior Spencer Yaculak, who is also in the robotics club.

The robot's biggest technical problems were its speed and a lagging network connection, the students said.

"It was slow and couldn't go up and down stairs," Mudd said. "So it would be hard to get to classes on time. Students would have to be assigned to carry it."

Students also struggled with glitches in the video, which were caused by a slow network connection.

"It was hard to keep up during some of the classes because

What Goes On

Sunday, March 1

1 to 4 p.m., Artful Afternoon, Community Center

3 p.m., Secret Circus Youth Musical (See city ad on page 5)

Monday, March 2

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tree Protection Work Day, Public Works Facility

8 p.m., Council Worksession with GSFC, Municipal Building, live on Comcast 71, Verizon 21 and streaming at greenbeltnmd.gov/municipal

Tuesday, March 3

7 p.m., Advisory Committee on Trees Meeting, Public Works Facility (See city ad on page 5)

7 p.m., Arts Advisory Board Meeting, Community Center

7 p.m., Public Safety Advisory Committee Meeting, Community Center

Wednesday, March 4

9 a.m. to noon, Memorial Trees, Benches Work Day, Buddy Attick Park. (See city ad on page 5)

3:30 p.m., Board of Elections Meeting, Municipal Building

Thursday March 5

7:30 p.m., Council Worksession, GEAC, Greenbriar Community Building

Friday, March 6

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tree Protection Work Day, Public Works Facility (See city ad on page 5)

See **ROBOT**, page 7

Letters

Help Available For Pit Bulls

I would like to thank Kim DeAngelis for telling me about the wonderful work at the Villalobos Rescue Center. The center, located in New Orleans, La., is a pit bull dog rescue, as well as a rehabilitation and placement facility for abused and abandoned pit bulls.

Ms. DeAngelis, previously an animal control officer at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter, has over the years supported the work of the Villalobos Center. According to Tia Maria Torres, the founder and director of the center, Ms. DeAngelis' generous donation of \$5,000 will help to enable the staff to continue their work in "saving the most abused and maligned breed of dog in the world."

Brian Almquist

Arts Advisory Board Meets March 3

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

For additional information contact Nicole DeWald, at ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2057.

Storytellers Tell True Stories at The Clarice

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center will host a free program entitled Rotis, Tortillas & Wonder Bread: A Night of True Stories About Culture and Identity on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cafritz Foundation Theatre.

Six professional storytellers from SpeakeasyDC will tell true stories about their lives, revealing the challenges, rebellions and celebrations of being part of particular groups that have been pegged in American society as "other" and misunderstood – sometimes comically and sometimes tragically.

Corrections

The article on the Souper Bowl of Caring and photo of the shopping cart full of donated food in the February 12 issue of the News Review were attributed incorrectly. The actual reporter and photographer was Karen Yoho.

The time of the Li'l Makers program was incorrectly given in the February 19 issue. The correct time is 5 to 7 p.m.

There is an
urgent need
GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE
1-800-
RED-CROSS

Artful Afternoon Sunday Features Youth Musical

Enter a world of wonder at the Greenbelt Recreation Department's next Artful Afternoon on Sunday, March 1, when guests of all ages can enjoy a matinee performance of the city's all-original winter youth musical, Secret Circus. Written and directed by Christopher Cherry, Greenbelt's performing arts program coordinator, this show follows the adventures of a disabled girl, Anya, who flees with a traveling circus to escape a rising fascist regime. (The show begins at 3 p.m. and there is a fee for admission. Advance ticket purchase is recommended; contact the Community Center business office at 301-397-2208.)

Come early to enjoy a free craft workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. with artist-in-residence Mary Gawlik. Collaborate in the creation of a tower of flowers installation for the Community Center display case and make a few extra blooms to keep.

From 1:30 to 3 p.m., meet artist Michelle Dickson at a reception for her current exhibition at the Community Center Art Gallery. Her exhibition, Gestations,

features a collection of haunting, poetic figurative sculpture and multi-media prints. The show continues through March 20.

From 1 to 4 p.m., enjoy a variety of additional activities at leisure. The Community Center's nine artists-in-residence will host an open house and sale. Be inspired by their work in many styles and media and find unique gifts for all occasions.

Visit the Greenbelt Access Television studio to learn about opportunities for community non-profit organizations to create free public service announcements.

See the Greenbelt Museum's current exhibit, Greenbelt: The First 75 Years, which explores the city's history through an interactive timeline. For more local history, tour the Greenbelt Museum's historic house at 10-B Crescent Road, across the street from the Community Center. Tours are available between 1 and 5 p.m. for a nominal fee.

Artful Afternoons are a monthly program taking place at the Community Center.



The Public Works crew delivered a team of horses to the Community Center for use in the youth musical Secret Circus. These horses are part of a sculpture on loan from the American Visionary Art Museum.

Greenbelt News Review is looking for **TYPISTS**

Do you have 2 hours to give on some Tuesday evenings from 8-10 p.m.?

Be part of a congenial company of people who enjoy doing vital work getting your local paper to everyone's home each week.

For more information contact Angie 301-345-7874 or p4angy@juno.com

This week's Swifty . . .

"Since we got the big screen T.V. we never sit and hold hands," she observed

r _ _ _ _ ly."

Last Week's Swifty: "We're from Chicago. It's a sacrilege to eat a thin crust pizza," he objected **PIOUSLY**.

The Old Curmudgeon



“Where are the snows of yesteryear?”...
On my parking space, that’s where!”
(February 3, 2000)

Carrier Needed

News Review Route in Franklin Park, \$10 wk.

Call Arlene Clarke at 240-988-3351

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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Thomas X. White, president; Cathie Meetre, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Sylvia Lewis, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Tom Jones.

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

Community Events

New Puppet Show At New Deal Café

On Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m., The Hollow Stump, the new puppet show by Beech Tree puppeteers Ole and Ingrid Hass, will be presented in a free performance at the New Deal Café. Adapted from a Russian folk tale, the play depicts seven animals who seek shelter from the winter cold and snow. The tale celebrates community as the animals learn to share one space, and is suitable for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade.

The animal puppets are rod puppets, all crafted by the Hasses. These Greenbelters also wrote the script and most of the music, which they sing as well. The stump itself was found in the yard waste dump at Northway Fields and was carved and sanded by Ole Hass.

Beech Tree Puppets was founded by the Hasses last year, with their first performance at Greenbelt Elementary School. This is the second puppet production they have performed at the New Deal Café.

The Hollow Stump is sponsored by the Friends of New Deal Café Arts and supported by a grant from the City of Greenbelt.

GHI Notes

Thursday, February 26, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session), Board Room

Friday, February 27, Offices Closed, Emergency Maintenance Service available at 301-474-6011

Monday, March 2, 7 p.m., Pre-purchase Orientation, Board Room

Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting, Board Room

Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Thursday, February 26, Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. SAW Open Mic hosted by Lynn Hollyfield from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, February 27, John Guernsey plays American standards on the piano from 6 to 7:30 p.m. followed by the blues quartet, Hard Swimmin’ Fish, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 28, community Jazz Jam with Greg Meyer from 1 to 5 p.m. Guernsey plays jazz and blues on piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The Marsh Brothers bring folk, rock, blues and country music to the café from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 1, join the Deaf Brunch from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Beech Tree Puppets perform The Hollow Stump, based on the folk tale The Mitten, from 2 to 4 p.m. All ages are welcome. The Petrified Pickers perform bluegrass and country classics from 5 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3, The New Old Jamboree, hosted by Ruthie and the Wranglers, will feature new songs, old songs and special guests from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4, the Full Lotus Jam Band performs original groovy tunes, spiritual chants and world music from 7 to 9 p.m.

Send us your meeting notices or special activities for the Community Events page.

At the Library

Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m. (rescheduled from Saturday, February 21). Read to Rover is for children age 6 to 11 and helps them build reading confidence while reading aloud to specially trained therapy dogs. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Registration is required; call the library at 301-345-5800 for more information.

Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m. Benjamin Banneker & The African Roots of His Science will be the final session of the winter season in this audio-visual lecture series presented by C.R. Gibbs, renowned historian of the African diaspora. Other sessions will be presented in the spring on Tuesday evenings.

Storytimes

Wednesday, March 4: Preschool Storytime, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 people; Thursday, March 5: Baby Storytime, 10:15 a.m., for ages 12 to 24 months, limit 20 people; Baby Laptime Storytime, 11:15 a.m., for ages birth to 12 months, limit 20 people; Toddler Laptime Storytime, 2:15 p.m., for ages 2 to 3, limit 20 people.

Each program contains a mixture of engaging activities and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy. Stop by the information desk to pick up free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the event.

Exploring the Effects Of Hearing Loss

Explorations Unlimited welcomes Dr. Julia Vadakkumpadan on Friday, February 27. She will discuss the daily effects that hearing loss have on an individual’s life. The presentation will review how one hears, the causes of hearing loss and information to know before investing in hearing aids, particularly since the senior population is vulnerable to gimmicks that can actually cause further damage to the hearing system.

Vadakkumpadan received her education from the University of Georgia and the University of Maryland, where she received her doctorate in Audiology in 2007.

While attending Maryland, Vadakkumpadan participated in translational research conducting electrophysiologic assessments of hearing on birds. She also completed and published research on the use of closed captioning by older adults who utilize hearing aids.

Vadakkumpadan is a licensed audiologist in Maryland and in the District of Columbia.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center in Room 114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged.

Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

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www.academy8theaters.com

Most features are \$5.50
all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D
R = ID Required
(!) = No passes, (!!)= No passes weekend
* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows

WEEK OF FEB. 27

FRIDAY – SATURDAY

The Duff, PG-13 (!)
11, 1:35, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40
Kingsman, R (!!)
10:35, 1:20, 4:10, 7, 9:50
SpongeBob: Out of the Water, PG (!!)
11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:40, 9
Hot Tub Time Machine, R (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:35
The Lazarus Effect, PG-13*
11:30, 2, 4:50, 7:30, 9:35
Focus, R*
11:05, 1:45, 4:50, 7:20, 10
Fifty Shades of Grey, R
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:50
McFarland, PG (!)
10:35, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40

SUNDAY

The Duff, PG-13 (!)
11, 1:35, 4:30, 7:20
Kingsman, R (!!)
10:35, 1:20, 4:10, 7
SpongeBob: Out of the Water, PG (!!)
11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:40
Hot Tub Time Machine, R (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15
The Lazarus Effect, PG-13*
11:30, 2, 4:50, 7:30
Focus, R*
11:05, 1:45, 4:50, 7:20
Fifty Shades of Grey, R
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7
McFarland, PG (!)
10:35, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55

MONDAY

The Duff, PG-13 (!)
11, 1:35, 4:30, 7:20
Kingsman, R (!!)
10:35, 1:20, 4:10, 7
SpongeBob: Out of the Water, PG (!!)
11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:40
SENIOR MOVIE
10 a.m.
Hot Tub Time Machine, R (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15
The Lazarus Effect, PG-13*
11:30, 2, 4:50, 7:30
Focus, R*
11:05, 1:45, 4:50, 7:20
Fifty Shades of Grey, R
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7
McFarland, PG (!)
10:35, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55

TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY

The Duff, PG-13 (!)
11, 1:35, 4:30, 7:20
Kingsman, R (!!)
10:35, 1:20, 4:10, 7
SpongeBob: Out of the Water, PG (!!)
11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:40
Hot Tub Time Machine, R (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15
The Lazarus Effect, PG-13*
11:30, 2, 4:50, 7:30
Focus, R*
11:05, 1:45, 4:50, 7:20
Fifty Shades of Grey, R
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7
McFarland, PG (!)
10:35, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55

THURSDAY

The Duff, PG-13 (!)
11, 1:35, 4:30
Chappie, R (preshow)*
7
Kingsman, R (!!)
10:35, 1:20, 4:10, 7
SpongeBob: Out of the Water, PG (!!)
11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:40
Hot Tub Time Machine, R (!)
11:20, 1:50, 4:40
Unfinished Business, R (preshow)*
8
The Lazarus Effect, PG-13*
11:30, 2, 4:50, 7:30
Focus, R*
11:05, 1:45, 4:50, 7:20
Fifty Shades of Grey, R
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7
McFarland, PG (!)
10:35, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55

Utopia Film Festival Presents
Sunday, March 1st & Wednesday, March 4th
Beginning at 8 PM

“Voices”

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbelttv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581
Book a seat at greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

Members Only

Open Editing Studio (FREE)
Mondays in March, 7-9PM

Free and Open to the Public

GATe Annual Meeting (FREE)
Sunday, March 22 from 3-5PM
Guest Speaker

Artful Afternoon/PSA Day (FREE)

Greenbelt Organizations can do a short, 30 sec. to 1 min. Public Service Announcement of their mission or upcoming event. Time reservations should be sent to greenbeltaccess@gmail.com.
Sunday, March 1st, from 1–3PM

GATe Orientation Class

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30-10PM

See what’s showing on Comcast 77 and Verizon FiOS 19 by visiting www.greenbelttv.org and click on “schedule”



Workshops, Activities Classes, Groups, Etc.

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is a non-profit activity space focused on all ages of learners. Check us out online at MakerSpace125.org, or drop by:

- Power Tools and Home Repair
- Taste of Tech, Kid programming series
- DIY workshop series; Make stuff!
- Fermenters Fan Club
- Knitters Anonymous Support Group


Join our team of volunteers to share your special interest with others! We will help you with everything you need.



125 Centerway, Greenbelt MD

Regular Winter Hours
Tue-Fri: 3pm–9pm
Sat-Sun: 12pm–6pm

Greenbelt Arts Center OPENS MARCH 6TH




DISARMINGLY FUNNY
**EVIL DEAD
THE MUSICAL**

Book and Lyrics by George Reinblatt
Music by Frank Cipolla, Christopher Bond, Melissa Morris and George Reinblatt
Additional Music by Christopher Bond, Melissa Morris, and George Reinblatt
Directed by Jeffery Lesniak, Music Direction by Itai Yasur
Choreographed by Rikki Howie Lacewell
Warning: Parents strongly cautioned, due to language and stage gore.

March 6-28
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm
Sundays, March 15 and 22 at 2:00pm
Ticket prices: \$30 Splatter Zone, \$22 General Admission,
\$18 Students/Seniors/Military,
\$14 Youth (12 and under with adult)

COMING SOON
Choking Out the Kudzu - Apr. 10-26 - Directed by Billie Colombaro
Celtic Concert by the Homespun Ceilidh Band - May 1

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org
123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP



Meandering around the Lake



Viewed from the edge of the south bay, a frozen Greenbelt Lake is covered with a white blanket.



Madame Dragon guards the yard art at Mark Siegel’s house on the lake.



Can you find the footprints as they trail off from the tiny bit of open water. Whose are they?


Greenbelt Is GREAT
for humans and wildlife!



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40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

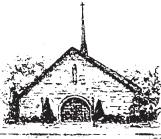


Worship Service 10 a.m.
Communion Sunday



“Every man of discernment, while walking upon the earth, feeleth indeed abashed, inasmuch as he is fully aware that the thing which is the source of his prosperity, his wealth, his might, his exaltation, his advancement and power is, as ordained by God, the very earth which is trodden beneath the feet of all men.”
Baha’i Writing
Greenbelt Bahá’i Community
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.greenbeltbahais.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe


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Worship Service 11:00AM

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3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



March 1, 10 a.m.
HEY, THIS IS OUR BAY
UU Arlington visitors Dick Graham and Jane McKeel;
with Worship Associate Noel Monardes and Director of
Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Pastor





Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS
Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.

FREE MOVIE
Sunday, March 8, 3:00 p.m.

BLOOD MONEY exposes the profit motive of the abortion business, examines Roe v. Wade, and begs you to reconsider your perspective.

St. Hugh’s Church – downstairs
135 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt

Info. Gary Schenk,
301-474-5721 40 Days for Life
www.BLOODMONEYFILM.com



Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM except first Friday of the month, when children’s service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM
Children’s Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist

Mishkan Torah Holds Blood Drive March 8

The Social Action Committee of Mishkan Torah Synagogue will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive at the synagogue on Sunday, March 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The blood drive will take place in a Red Cross Bloodmobile parked on Ridge Road in front of the synagogue.

Prospective donors may call 1-800-733-2767 (1-800-RED-CROSS) or go to redcrossblood.org to sign up. Although appointments are recommended, donors may come to the synagogue at any time during the blood drive. The Red Cross needs all blood types.

Mishkan Torah is at 10 Ridge Road.

Garden Club Will Assign Plots Soon

The Greenbelt Community Garden Club's (GCGC) Annual Plot Assignment Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. in the Police Station conference room. Those who had a plot in previous years and wish to retain it but are unable to attend, contact the Garden Coordinator. People on the GCGC waiting list are also encouraged to attend.

Contact Martha Tomecek at 301-614-0691 with questions.

Mishkan Torah Craft Festival Is March 8

Mishkan Torah Synagogue will hold its very first Arts and Crafts Festival on Sunday, March 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival is intended to give Mishkan Torah artists, crafters and photographers a place to exhibit and sell their works.

The festival is open to the entire community and there is no charge to attend. There will also be a crafts table for youngsters.

The event is designed for the entire family. Free refreshments will be served. Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road.

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

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301-441-2662



Condolences to the family and friends of longtime Greenbelt resident Betty Marie Griggs, 85, who died February 18, 2015 in Augusta, Georgia. She was the widow of pioneer Greenbelter James Francis "Jimmy" Griggs; she moved to Georgia in 2000.

We were sorry to learn of the death of former Greenbelter Gerard J. "Jerry" Weber, 82, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., on February 14, 2015. Sympathy to his wife Marie and other family and friends. The Weber family were members of St. Hugh's parish and were active in both church and school.

To send information for Our Neighbors, email us at news-review@verizon.net or leave a message at 301-474-6892

– Kathleen McFarland

Greenbelt Baseball

2015 Registration Dates

(Bring a copy of Child's Birth Certificate & Photo ID)

Saturday, February 28

Registration will be held at the following locations and times
10:00 AM – NOON @ Greenbelt Youth Center
10:00 AM – NOON @ Springhill Lake Recreation Center

DRAFT DAY

All first-year players 9 years and older (Major League Division) are asked to attend one of our *First year player draft days:

Friday, March 6, 2015
6:00 PM Braden Field #2 (for those who can't make Saturday)

Saturday, March 7, 2015
10:00 AM, First Year Players Draft (McDonald Field)
(Bad Weather Date Saturday, March 14, 2015 same time and location)
Major League Players Only

(Registration will also be available before the draft)

For more information please visit the league's website: www.leaguelineup.com/greenbeltbaseball or contact Commissioner – Christine Bailey at 301-395-0062
We are looking for Commissioners, Coaches, and Volunteers for more information please email us at greenbeltbaseball@aol.com

City Information

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 2-6

Monday, March 2 at 8pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION – NASA/GSFC**, Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Comcast 71, Verizon 21, and streaming at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, March 3 at 7pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent Road.

Tuesday, March 3 at 7pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Tuesday, March 3 at 7pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Wednesday, March 4 at 3:30pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS** at Municipal Building

Thursday, March 5 at 7:30pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION – GEAC** at Greenbriar Community Building, 7600 Hanover Parkway.

All meetings listed are open to the public. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

Volunteer & Service Opportunities!

Monday, March 2 from 10am to 1pm, **TREE PROTECTION ECOLOGICAL WORKDAY**, Public Works Building, 555 Crescent Road: Volunteers are needed to protect slow-growth trees from beaver herbivory by placing wire caging around the trunks of trees, as well as to restore the natural ecosystem of the park by removing the abundant invasive species, English ivy. Free coffee, training, and tools will be provided during orientation, which takes place inside the Public Works Building (located down the hill from the Buddy Attick Park parking lot).

Wednesday, March 4 from 9am to 12pm, **MEMORIAL TREES & MEMORIAL BENCHES GIS WORKDAY**, Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road: Volunteers are needed to record the City of Greenbelt's Memorial Trees and Memorial Benches using GIS. Learn how to identify tree species, record DBH, measure canopy and more! Training and equipment will be provided by the City of Greenbelt Public Works. Space is limited, so please RSVP to Erin Josephitis at (240) 542-2168 or Volunteer@CHEARS.org.

Friday, March 6 from 10am to 1pm, **TREE PROTECTION ECOLOGICAL WORKDAY**, Public Works Building, 555 Crescent Road. (See Monday listing for details.)

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and Youth Advisory Committee

For information call 301-474-8000.

GREENBELT CITYLINK: WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV
Follow us on FACEBOOK! CITYOFGREENBELT

GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL 2015!

36 TALENTED TEENS PERFORM

SECRET CIRCUS

by Chris Cherry
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road

Saturday, March 7 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Tickets: \$5 (Call 301-397-2208 for tickets.)
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Friendly Felines at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter, 550-A Crescent Road 301-474-6124

Open Wednesdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm

TABBY is a fun-loving, easy-going boy about 3 years old. Tabby loves to snuggle under blankets and loves being petted. Tabby needs to be in a household by himself as he has FIV, but will live a long, healthy life. Tabby is great with kids, but would also do well in any household as he is laid-back. Come snuggle with Tabby and fall in love!

BUTCH is a cool, fun and totally people-oriented English Bulldog mix. Want a dog that is low-key and LOVES TO TAKE RIDES in the car? Butch is it. Butch was surrendered because his owners were forced to move. Butch much prefers to be the only dog in the house. Come meet Mr. Butch-Smartie-Pants!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!
And at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/animalshelter

Artful Afternoon – Sunday, March 1

1-4pm. Individual activity times vary.
All ages welcome. Most activities FREE.

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road
3pm: Winter Youth Musical: Secret Circus. Follow the adventures of Anya, a disabled girl who joins up with a traveling circus to evade a rising fascist regime. Tickets: \$5. Advance purchase recommended. Contact Ruth Campbell at the Greenbelt Community Center business office: rcampbell@greenbeltnmd.gov.

1-3pm: Free Craft Workshop: Tower of Flowers. Contribute to a community art installation, plus make a few blooms to keep. Led by artist Mary Gawlik.

1:30-3pm: Art Gallery Reception. Meet Michelle Dickson and see her exhibit Gestations in the art gallery, featuring haunting figurative sculpture and mixed-media prints.

1-4pm: Artists-in-Residence studio open house and sale; Greenbelt Access Television studio open house

1-5pm: Greenbelt Museum historic house tours (\$3)

Community Foundation Draws Creative Ideas with Workshop

by Karen Tang

A Greenbelt resident wants to celebrate deaf history in Greenbelt by producing a documentary featuring deaf residents of the city.

“[Greenbelt] was once called Deafbelt,” said Alice Mitchell, manager at the University of Maryland testing office and counseling center. “It’s a cultural pride.”

To fund her idea, she pitched a grant proposal during the Greenbelt Community Foundation’s (GCF) grant-writing workshop at the Community Center on Thursday, February 19.

Community members can submit proposals twice a year. The spring deadline is April 15 and the fall deadline is October 15. Residents can request \$500 to \$5,000 for their suggested project. GCF encourages applicants to consider all three areas of Greenbelt – Greenbelt East, Greenbelt West and Center Greenbelt – Suzette Agans, chair of GCF, said.

Another hopeful resident, Courtland Jones, graphic design teacher at Greenbelt Middle School, proposed his idea to raise the awareness, promo-

tion and celebration of literacy by reaching out to community schools.

“We want to be able to touch every feeder school,” Jones said. “The purpose is to raise the consciousness of literacy both for the students as well as the parents.”

Bill Duncan, former GCF board member, provided guidance and help on how to apply for a grant. He gave tips for how to implement ideas into a grant proposal.

GCF is a nonprofit organization bridging the needs of the community and caring donors. Contributors come from Greenbelt citizens, business owners and governmental organizations.

GCF’s mission is to maintain, improve and enrich the quality of life in Greenbelt. It takes interest in creative projects that will boost the cultural, artistic, recreational, social and environmental lifestyle of all Greenbelt neighborhoods.

“[The mission is to be] able to provide funds for organizations,” Agans said. “Most organizations in Greenbelt are volun-

teers ... they wouldn’t be able to do this on their own.”

GCF was established in June 2006 and has approved more than 35 grants. Organizations that GCF has funded include Greenbelt Co-op Incubator, Club125 (now Greenbelt MakerSpace), Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) and the Greenbelt Farmers Market. GCF funds activities focusing on arts, education, environment, preservation and community enhancement.

“Greenbelt is a little bit unique,” Duncan said. “The community is known for stepping out . . . it has this ethic of identifying issues and responding to that issue.”

Katherine Rekkas from Greenbelt Access Television filmed highlights at the event. The community can expect to see the highlights in March before the April deadline.

More information about the application process and about GCF is available at greenbelt-foundation.net.

Karen Tang is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

Ducks revel in the open water near the peninsula.

Attention Greenbelt East Residents

We understand there are some News Review delivery problems in the various communities in Greenbelt East. We are researching to find out if residents are receiving the weekly newspaper.

Be sure to notify the News Review if you are not getting your paper.

Each homeowners association is responsible for how the paper is delivered – by maintenance or other staff or by a volunteer carrier. If it’s a volunteer, the HOA selects the person to deliver the paper.

The News Review pays a nominal amount for delivery and provides the free newspapers. Be sure to let us know if there are problems. Call Mary Lou Williamson – 301-938-5588.

Snoring is the primary symptom of sleep apnea.

We can help you both get a better night’s sleep.

Sleep apnea is a life-threatening condition that causes people to stop breathing while they sleep. This condition can lead to **high blood pressure, heart disease, weight gain, elevated glucose levels, depression, irritability and memory problems.** Recognize the symptoms:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| + Snoring | + Regular insomnia | + Difficulty concentrating |
| + Excessive fatigue | + Drowsy driving | + Restless sleep |

Doctors Community Hospital’s Sleep Center is the only program in Prince George’s County accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

We offer board-certified sleep medicine specialists, a full range of sleep studies and CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) equipment assessments. Also, appointments are conveniently available seven nights a week in our beautiful suites, complete with flat screen televisions and full private bathrooms.



Sleep Center

8100 Good Luck Road
North Building, 6th Floor
Lanham, Maryland 20706
DCHsleep.org

To request a free sleep apnea quiz or learn about sleep studies, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

County Schools to Receive National, State Recognition

Three teachers from Eleanor Roosevelt High School were among 19 Prince George’s County Public School (PGCPS) teachers who achieved National Board Certified status, while Greenbelt Elementary School is one of only three schools in the state of Maryland to be recognized and honored for their gifted and talented program.

National Board certification is the most prestigious teaching credential educators can obtain in the United States. The Eleanor Roosevelt teachers so honored are Coit Hendley III, Yau-Jong Twu and Maya Yamada.

As a 2014 recipient of the Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) School Award, Greenbelt Elementary School demonstrated superiority

in student identification, curriculum and instruction, professional development and program management and evaluation.

“I want to commend Principal Monica Gaines and the entire team at Greenbelt Elementary School on this achievement,” said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, chief executive officer for PGCPS, “as well as thank our new nationally certified teachers for their commitment to professional growth, high standards in instruction and improvement in learning outcomes for our students.

“It’s a job well done and a great demonstration of the caliber of teachers we employ and the type of quality instructional options available to students and families in PGCPS,” Maxwell added.

Local MakerSpace Springs into Action

It may not look or feel like spring yet but the Greenbelt MakerSpace is seeding new workshops and classes that will soon bloom into a garden of fun activities for all ages.

This Friday, February 27, after the Little Makers group of pre-kindergarten kids and their parents departs their 5 p.m. meetup, the MakerSpace will host the first interest group meeting of the Fermenters Fan Club at 7 p.m. While the Brew Crew makes plans for our first home brew concoction, others will discuss yogurt, breads, cheeses and other fermented food projects.

Every week in March will feature a different quick "taste of tech" topic: animation, 3D printing, game design, and robotics. These topics will be introduced in a free Wednesday evening class, 6:15 to 7:45 p.m., followed by additional workshop hours later in the week. Students looking for more time for instruction and exploration should consider one of the four week-long day camps hosted at the MakerSpace. The first will occur the week of spring break, April 6 to 10.

The first in a new series of DIY workshops will be held Saturday, March 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., where participants will build cardboard playhouses and forts. Future DIY topics include making homemade cleaners, natural egg dyes, origami and fairy houses.

– George Boyce

ROBOT continued from page 1

it would lag a little bit,” senior Julian Hall said. “It wasn’t always fast and smooth.”

If the program officially came to the school, the wireless internet connection would be improved to solve that problem, Briscoe said.

VGO is a potential replacement for at-home tutors, especially for AP classes, where available tutors are rare, Briscoe said.

“I think it would be optimal for harder classes,” Yaculak said. “You can zoom in to see everything the teacher is writing, you can light up a button to show you’re raising your hand and you get to hang out with friends. You’re not going to fall behind.”

The in-class socialization that the robot provides is one of the main selling points, since it would make coming back to school after a long absence much easier, Mudd said.

The robots cost approximately \$6,000 each, with more than \$1,000 in maintenance fees each year, Briscoe said.

“I think that, with the budget crunch, we’d have to look for other alternatives to VGO. But if the price of VGO was to come down we’d be thrilled,” Briscoe laughed. “We’re not like a hospital, we’re a school, our budget is tight.”

For now, ERHS is weighing the financial cost of the robot against the benefits, Briscoe said.

“It’s clearly expensive, but it is a potential solution to what both we and the county see as a problem,” Briscoe said. “And if it could stop home and hospital students from having to drop out of advanced classes, can you really put a dollar amount on that?”

Alexi Worley is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.

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Sunday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-0522

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Saturday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-4400
Closed Sunday

Greenbelt

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Fresh Lean Boneless Whole Pork Loin \$1.99 lb.		Fresh Large Seedless Grapes \$1.99 lb.		Shurfine Cheese Chunks Assorted 8 oz. \$2.00	Celeste Assorted Pizza 5-6 oz. \$1.00	Sea Best Frozen Pink Salmon 1 lb. \$5.49	
Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef \$3.69 lb.		Fresh Crop Idaho Potatoes 5 lb. \$1.99		Shedd's Soft Vegetable Spread 15 oz. \$2.00	Banquet Assorted Meat or Fruit Pot Pies 7 oz. 88¢	Sea Best Bay Scallops 1 lb. \$6.99	
Grocery Bargains					Grocery Bargains		
Angel Soft Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll Pack \$1.00		Hunt's Assorted Pasta Sauces 24 oz. \$1.00			Shurfine Assorted Spaghetti or Macaroni 12-16 oz. \$1.00	Knorr Assorted Rice or Pasta Sides 3-6 oz. \$1.00	
Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light Tuna 5 oz. 80¢		Sparkle Paper Towels Roll \$1.00			Hunt's Squeeze Ketchup 24 oz. \$1.00	Maier's Sliced Italian Bread 20 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	
Deli		Bakery		Natural & Gourmet	Health & Beauty	Beer & Wine	
Hatfield Honey Cured or Virginia Ham \$4.29 lb.		Fresh Store Baked Club Rolls White or Wheat 6 pk. \$2.00		Wasa Light Rye or Flax Crispbread 8-10 oz. \$2.59	Herbal Essences Shampoo or Conditioner Assorted 10-12 oz. \$3.00	Natural Light Beer 6 pack – 12 oz. cans \$4.49	
Land-O-Lakes American Cheese \$5.69 lb.		Fresh Store Baked Chocolate Chunk Cookies 8 pk. \$2.99		Annie's Macaroni & Cheddar Cheese 6 oz \$1.99	Hall's Cough Drops Assorted 30 pack \$1.50	Lindeman's Bin Series Wines 750 ML. \$6.99	

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Police Blotter

*Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.*

Weapon
February 11, 9:23 p.m., 7 Court Southway. A 17-year-old nonresident youth was arrested for possession of a concealed deadly weapon after officers, responding to a report of a suspicious person, found him possessing brass knuckles. He was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

Assault
February 16, 5:46 a.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. An employee at Beltway Plaza Laundromat was inside mopping the floor when a man came to the door and told him to unlock it. When he did, the suspect punched him in the face and fled in a vehicle described as a white passenger car. The suspect is described as a black male, 40 to 45 years of age, 6' to 6'5" tall with a muscular build. The employee refused treatment for a laceration above his eye.

Disorderly Conduct
February 13, 4:50 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. A 28-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after officers responded to a report of a disorderly man at Game Stop. He was released on citation pending trial.

Theft
February 14, 11:37 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. Documents were removed from a residence.

February 17, 11:27 p.m., 7800 block Lakecrest Drive. A woman reported that she saw a man walk into her back yard and remove a pair of garden pruners. He then walked to a nearby residence and used the pruners to try to cut the lock off of a secured bicycle. When the woman confronted him

Burglary Issues
Greenbelt Police are asking for help in solving a recent series of residential burglaries in Greenbelt East. They take place primarily during daytime hours with entry usually made by forcing open a rear door or window.
Contact the police at 301-474-7200 (emergency number 301-474-5454) if you observe a suspicious person(s) or activity that you believe may be related to a burglary or attempted burglary.

he fled on foot.
Burglary
February 12, 4:27 a.m., 6100 block Greenbelt Road. A window was broken in an attempt to break into Game Stop. Entry was not gained.
February 12, 4:30 p.m., 8100 block Ryan Way. Money and a cell phone were taken from a residence. Entry was gained by prying open a basement window.

Vandalism
February 12, 7:20 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive. The front door lock assembly of a residence was vandalized.

Vehicle Crime
A 2009 Scion TC, impounded for safekeeping February 14 after it had been found abandoned in the exit lane of the Greenbelt Post Office, was reported stolen the same day and recovered.

A hood ornament was taken from a vehicle in the 6900 block Hanover Parkway on February 17.

A catalytic converter was removed from a vehicle in the 7800 block Hanover Parkway some time between February 8 and February 9.

Bowie Family Presentation
A history of the Bowie family of Prince George's County will be presented by John Peter Thompson, chairman of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission at the monthly meeting of the Prince George's County Genealogical Society. The meeting will take place on March 4 at 7 p.m. at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton. The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.
Visit pgcgs.org, call the library at 301-262-2063 or go to facebook.com/pgcgenealogy for details.

Free First Fridays At Montpelier
Enjoy Montpelier Mansion's First Friday offerings each month starting in March and running through October. Preceded by Pocketful of Stories, a preschool story and activity session scheduled from 10 to 11 a.m., First Friday events will begin at 11 a.m. and run until 4 p.m. Attendees can take self-guided tours of Montpelier and play old-fashioned tavern games.
For more information call 301-377-7817, TTY: 301-699-2544 or visit pgparks.com.

Free New Music Concert at UMD
The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center will be the site of the free TEMPO spring concert on Monday, March 2 at 8 p.m. in the Gildenhorn Recital Hall. Established and run by graduate students at the UMD School of Music, TEMPO premieres new music happening beyond the walls of the university.

My Point of View
Times Are Changing And We Must Change, Too

by James Giese

Bonnie Shields wrote a thought-provoking letter to the News Review (see February 12 issue) relating to the future of the Greenbelt movie house in which she advocates preserving the theater in time. I respectfully take exception.
I do not know enough about the merits of the three proposals for theater operation to express a preference for one over the other and hope that the city council in its wisdom made the right choice. I do know that the theater operation has been and appears to continue to be a significant drain on the finances of the city and do not feel that the city government can continuously use tax moneys to subsidize historic but non-sustaining commercial or other activities within the community. As much as I and friends in my age group enjoy seeing first run pictures at Greenbelt, the sad fact is that movies no longer have the importance in today's social life that they did in the '30s and the use of movie houses has radically changed before and is now undergoing further changes and a questionable future.
Also, historic preservation in Greenbelt should not be regarded in the same vein as much other historic preservation, such as the preservation of Colonial Williamsburg, which has been restored to how it was in colonial times except that people no longer live there.

To successfully preserve this community is to continue to maintain the historic core as an active community of people who enjoy the way of life that the town's original planners sought to achieve for persons of modest income and mixed cultures, a community that lives in the present but enjoys the benefits that the past has to offer. For the most part, it is the town plan, not the town architecture, that is significant. It is the ideal of a Utopian way of life, a community of activists and participants, a sense of small town living in a large suburban area that need to be preserved. As a living organism, Greenbelt and Greenbelters must change as the times change in order to survive. Greenbelters cannot live in the past. But they can respect the past.
The Greenbelt theater was once an important part of the social life of Greenbelt as an entertainment venue. Its preservation needs to be to restore it to once more serve that purpose. It cannot continue to show movies to empty houses, as I have observed in the past. If it is necessary to change the way the theater operates and the uses to which it is put and if to achieve such change some physical changes are required, so be it. If Greenbelt continues to be the community it is, there will be enough advance discussion to prevent inappropriate changes.

Watch out for children
as they cross the road.

The safety of our children is everyone's business!



Wildlife Photography Talk at Refuge
Join award-winning wildlife photographer Joseph Giitter, a Hollingsworth Art Gallery artist, for a talk on wildlife photography at the Patuxent Research Refuge on Saturday, February 28 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Giitter will provide an overview and tips on technical subjects to get the perfect shots and the stories behind some of his spectacular photos in the gallery. Attendees may also take home a free test print while supplies last. For ages 10 and up; no registration is required. For more information, visit fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/gallery.html.



NAMI Holds Family Education Course
The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will offer a Family to Family Education Course for 12 weeks on Wednesdays, March 4 through May 13, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Class and instructional materials are free. The class is designed for family members and caregivers of individuals with a mental illness, including bipolar disorder, panic disorder, schizoaffective disorder, borderline personality disorder, major depression, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder and co-occurring brain and addiction disorders.
The classes will be held in Landover. For more information or to register, call Dorie at 240-687-4636 or Bonnie at 301-318-4377.

Local Groups Sponsor Program “Beyond Coal”

by Rachel Kuipers

Maryland’s dependence on coal raises significant health, job and environmental concerns, according to the Maryland Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club, Roosevelt Democratic Club, Reel & Meal, and Greenbelt Climate Action Network sponsored an event Sunday afternoon, February 22, entitled Beyond Coal: Cleaner Energy, Cleaner Air for Maryland, to educate and update those interested in the mining issue. Over 30 people attended the meeting in the Greenbriar Terrace Room in Greenbelt East.

The documentary Coal Country was screened and discussed at the event. The film showed the communities and citizens affected by coal mining, as well as industry representatives and local residents who rely on those jobs to support their families.

The coal mining industry and some members of affected communities are at odds over this issue. Coal miners and the industry argue that coal is necessary for power as well as jobs; others argue that health and environmental effects are too detrimental to ignore.

“Do you have to make a choice or can you try to find the best way that will make the most people happy?” asked Councilmember Judith Davis. “That’s a tough decision . . . and we have to keep working at it because we are running out of time.”

Seth Bush, the Maryland organizing representative of the Sierra Club, spoke of the dangers of mountaintop removal coal mining as well as the overall use of coal as a main source of energy.

Much of the coal Maryland uses is from mountaintop removal mining, a method of coal extraction that involves blowing the tops off mountains. Exposed coal is then excavated and loaded onto trains or barges. According to Bush it is then exported or combusted for use.

Coal Country explains that debris from the explosion is blown into nearby valleys and rivers, polluting the immediate area and killing native growth.

Coal transported by train is not covered, leaving it free to blow into communities through which it travels. Coal dust in the air can cause and worsen asthma, as well as increase the risk of developing a number of other illnesses.

In coal mining communities affected by mountaintop removal, the process drives away tourism, forcing residents to choose between leaving the community their families may have lived in for generations or staying and potentially suffering from resulting illnesses.

Moving Forward

“We need to start talking more

and start having honest conversations about the steps for moving forward,” Bush said. “The average family in the United States pays \$73 per month in health care costs associated with poor air quality due to fossil fuels. That just shocked me because you don’t pay that on your electric bill but so many people pay that in terms of hospital bills for the same reason that you’re getting your electricity.”

Maryland is making progress though, said Rich Reis, chairman of the energy committee for the Maryland Sierra Club. Legislators recently introduced a bill, he said, to place an eight-year ban on fracking to extract natural gas from underground.

“The bottom line is, we need these health protections now,” said Bush, “and we need Governor Hogan to look at this as a common-sense policy that is really about public health. It’s not a partisan issue.” “It’s possible, so let’s do it,” he added. “Let’s clean up the air we breathe. Let’s no longer be deemed as that state on the east coast that has the worst air quality.”

Rachel Kuipers is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.

Hospital Lectures On Bariatric Surgery

Doctors Community Hospital will hold its monthly bariatric surgery and weight loss lecture on Friday, March 6 at 8 a.m. in the Professional Office Building, Suite 210.

Obesity is often linked to diabetes, sleep apnea, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and arthritis. Losing weight may reduce or eliminate the need to use some medications to manage such conditions.

Register for the lecture by calling 301-324-4968.

Audubon Bird Walk At Fran Uhler Area

On Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 a.m., the Prince George’s Audubon Society will host a bird walk for migrating and resident woodland birds, field birds and waterfowl at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. There is a good chance for raptor flyovers at this Patuxent River forested floodplain. A side trip to the freshwater wetland at the Horsepen Branch is also possible.

All are welcome and there is no fee. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Lemon Bridge Road off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. Waterproof footwear and binoculars are suggested.

For more information contact walk leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.



Flags flap in the strong winds at the Aquatic and Fitness Center.

PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

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Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center

Greenbelters Lured to Maine for Instruction and More

Sparse copy eventually lends itself to resurrecting stories that have been gathering dust in the "Overset Basket." This one from way back in July, is a worthy read from a much warmer time.

Pianos all over the town start up at 9 a.m. – the earliest the residents can tolerate the racket. Home to the Summerkeys music camp and temporary resting place of a couple of wandering Greenbelters, Lubec, Maine, is about as far as you can get from the hustle and bustle of the metropolis. Set on the very northeastern edge of Down-East Maine, it’s a five-minute walk across the bridge into Canada – where FDR had his summer home on Campobello. The views are spectacular across the Bay of Fundy – especially when the fog lifts long enough to see them – indeed a sound that quickly recedes into the background unnoticed is the almost constant tone of the local foghorn (G above middle C, for those that care). Temperatures are cool and pleasant so sleeping in Lubec becomes an art form. There is still commercial fishing in the area and the lobsters are tasty and well-priced.

Greenbelter Cathie Meetre and her former neighbor of 30 years ago in 24 Court of Ridge, Margaret Morris, have attended Summerkeys for the last six years. The summer camp attracts a wide range of musicians – some of whom are prodigious in their skills – and some who haven’t had a lesson in their lives. Everyone is welcome and unlike snootier camps, there are no auditions. The efforts of even the least talented are appreciated and welcomed. Indeed, it seems that the students and faculty alike recognize and especially applaud the struggles of adult learners brave enough to tackle such a complex skill later in life – which is amazing considering that musicians are usually notoriously judgmental.

Although Meetre refers to it as ‘geriatric piano camp’ and



Summerkeys students whoop it up with eight hands and two pianos. The notices on their backs spell out ‘We Need A Drink.’

most of the students are indeed older, attendees include adults of all ages mostly from the North East but with a substantial number coming in from across the country, Canada and even Europe. In addition to piano and jazz piano, Summerkeys offers violin, viola, cello, woodwind, brass, harp, composition, dance, voice and guitar. There is a thriving photographic workshop and a creative writing offering – attracting couples who are not both musicians. Unlike most summer camps, which involve accommodations, campers make their own living arrangements and there are houses to rent around the town and a number of in-town and nearby B&Bs.

Morris and Meetre rent a house with a third student who plays cello and piano. They first came up here for a week – but it seemed like they had just got here when it was time to turn around and go home again. So then they came for two weeks.

And after two weeks, they were just dug in nicely and then it was time to go home. So they’re now up to three weeks and there’s no telling when it will end because the camp runs from June to September. In fact, 15 Summerkeys students have bought houses here – which, out of Lubec’s entire ‘downtown’ of about 150 houses, is a pretty high proportion.

Each week provides individual and group lessons, performance opportunities, and the possibility of forming groups with other students. Music ranges from baroque to modern. Morris studied piano for a decade as a child, and violin through college and beyond. Though her passion is violin, she takes lessons in both instruments. She has played violin with the Prince George’s Philharmonic and her daughter Mariam D’Eustachio (Hunanian) who graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), is a professional flutist married to Kevin D’Eustachio – the son of the former vice principal of ERHS. Small world.

Meetre is an adult beginner who one day 10 years ago decided that the idea of learning to play could not be put off any longer. She describes her progress as ‘glacial.’ She notes, however, that 10 years ago she couldn’t play the piano at all and now she can a bit. She acknowledges it is the most demanding thing she’s done besides raising children.

The faculty at Summerkeys is a mix of local musicians (there’s quite an arts scene in Down-East Maine) and New York City transplants. They are all accomplished professionals and the faculty concerts that take place on Wednesday nights in the local church are a welcome feature of Lubec summer life – with musicians on the Bar Harbor summer circuit playing in nearby Macchias on Tuesdays. The faculty members are all experienced in teaching adults – and are patient and encouraging but exacting. They take each student where they are and move forward with them. The credentials and capability of the faculty are a sig-

nificant factor in Summerkeys’ success – and they are up to working with the most expert pianist and yet able to guide the total neophyte.

Lubec has possibly the highest concentration of grand pianos of any former sardine-packing village in the cosmos. Unlike most music camps centered on the music department of a school or college, Lubec could be loosely considered ‘community based.’ There are approximately 25 practice rooms on the schedule, most with pianos, scattered all over town – though ‘town’ is a circle only about a quarter mile in diameter.

In fact, the entire town covers approximately the same area as Buddy Attick Park. Some are in the camp’s central location either in the main house, or in huts in the garden (and a very pretty garden it is too – gardens thrive in Lubec). But others are in churches, private houses, the garage of the big house on Main Street, or in the Masonic Hall. There’s a piano in the former high school library – which also hosts a kids camp – with kid campers tiptoeing through as Summerkeys students practice.

One little wiseacre came through several times, each time remarking stridently to the practicing Summerkeys student – ‘Good job, lady!’ If you stood by the side of the street, over the day you’d see students slogging up and down the big hill in the center of town with cellos, violins, bags of music, and music stands. You can get quite a workout being a music student in Lubec since the town is built on a hill with the Bay of Fundy on three sides and the Congregational Church on top – some 120 feet up in about a quarter mile.

When Morris and Meetre drive up to Lubec it is a serious road trip – on the way up they stop in New Jersey to pick up their friend and stay the night but coming back it’s one long day. The trip is about 800 miles one way. With an electronic piano, a violin, a cello and a bike in the back of the van the trio is equipped for almost any musical or roadside emergency though

Below, Margaret Morris performing at Summerkeys a couple of years ago.



changing a tire would be a wearisome exercise involving setting up a small chamber orchestra by the side of the road. Fortunately, they have made the drive several times without having to perform an impromptu concert to raise funds – or even cycle for help. But they are prepared.

The best thing about Lubec is how it gradually sloughs away the feeling of needing to be doing something else. There’s a small and homey library, there’s music, there’s walking along streets lined with splendid Victorian architecture and lush English gardens from when the town was booming with sardine profits a century ago.

Whale watching on the ferry to Eastport, and admiring the strategies of the seals hunting for mackerel in the tide race under the bridge to Campobello are a few of many aspects of the natural world – and there’s canoeing, too.

FDR’s summer home can be visited – a guy with lots of money and all the choices in the world who chose to summer just around the corner. The cell phone signal in Lubec is so weak that smart phones are confused whether they are on Halifax or New York time and may swap back and forth – and as for making a call – it is likely to be charged at international rates if it will go through at all (note: if you ever come here, the best place for calls is standing next to the water tower just by the fire house). The traveler arrives, revved up from hours on the road and the rush of getting packed and ready to leave.

And slowly, the sense of urgency melts away, the sleeping gets more profound, it’s possible to concentrate on moving your fingers over the notes JUST SO 500 times – and before you know it, the rhythm of Lubec has claimed another willing victim.

– Cathie Meetre



Lubec’s waterfront and boat dock serves pleasure and working craft.

PHOTOS BY CATHIE MEETRE

Send us your story
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